



## Jury Lesson Plans and Resources

The following are free lessons for each grade span related to teaching about juries. Most of the lessons were designed by participants or leaders in the California On My Honor Civics Institute, a teacher professional development program co-sponsored by the Administrative Office of the Courts and California State University San Marcos College of Education. The lessons are tied to the History-Social Science and English Language Arts standards, include higher order thinking skills as well as hands-on activities, and have been both peer reviewed and field tested in classrooms.

### Elementary Lessons

1) [On My Honor: Fourth and Fifth Graders Interacting with the Court](http://www.courts.ca.gov/5174.htm). This short mock trial unit was developed by Judge Richard Cline, Superior Court of San Diego, in collaboration with local elementary school teachers. While the unit is written as though the mock trial were to be conducted in a courtroom, the mock trial can also be easily done for the classroom.\*  
*<http://www.courts.ca.gov/5174.htm> - Scroll down to Mock Trials and choose Grade 4 and 5 On My Honor.*

### Middle School Lessons

2) [Jury Trial](http://www.courts.ca.gov/5174.htm). 8th Grade. By Karen Jeffries. Students explore the pros and cons of a jury trial and write a letter to a judge explaining whether they would like to have their case tried before a jury of their peers or not. *<http://www.courts.ca.gov/5174.htm> - middle school tab*

3) [Why Do I Have Jury Duty?](http://www.courts.ca.gov/5174.htm) 8th Grade. By Marianne Brittan. This middle school mock trial compares and contrasts a trial with no jury and a trial with a jury. It includes fun and thought provoking quotes and suggested video clips about juries. *<http://www.courts.ca.gov/5174.htm> - middle school tab*

### High School Lessons

4) [Duties of Citizenship](http://www.courts.ca.gov/5174.htm) 12th Grade. By Ryan Spears. Mr. Spears, Teacher of the Year for Placer County, developed this lesson about jury selection and an exploration of the duties of citizenship *<http://www.courts.ca.gov/5174.htm> - high school tab.*

### Additional Jury Resources

5) See the reverse of this document for a diagram of a courtroom that may be used as a guide for setting up a mock trial in your classroom. To borrow a judge's robe, contact:  
[deborah.genzer@jud.ca.gov](mailto:deborah.genzer@jud.ca.gov)

6) Additional information about jury service, including the video ***Ideals Made Real***, visit the [California Courts Website](http://www.courts.ca.gov/jury-service.htm). *<http://www.courts.ca.gov/jury-service.htm>*

7) Click here for a [brief overview of jury service for California teachers](http://www.ccss.org/teacher-resources), written by Judge Curtis Karnow, for Sunburst, the California Council for Social Studies Newsletter, visit <http://www.ccss.org/teacher-resources> and scroll down to archives.

